

II. REMARKS

This response supplements the Applicants' response filed on July 24, 2006, which is incorporated in its entirety.

The Applicants respectfully note that "(w)here an amendment substantially responds to the rejections, objections, or requirements in a non-final Office action (and is a *bona fide* attempt to advance the application to final action) but contains a minor deficiency (e.g., fails to treat every rejection, objection, or requirement), the examiner may simply act on the amendment and issue a new (non-final or final) Office action. The new Office action may simply reiterate the rejection, objection, or requirement not addressed by the amendment (or otherwise indicate that such rejection, objection, or requirement is no longer applicable)." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) § 714.03.


The Applicants' previous submission responded to all the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's objections and rejections that were presented in the non-final Office action. The response contained a minor deficiency, *i.e.*, it did not show markings to indicate the amendments to the title; the Examiner identified no other deficiencies. Rather than acting on the Applicants' response *in toto*, the Examiner instead issued a Notice of a Non-Compliant Amendment. In the interest of administrative efficiency, the Examiner *could* have simply acted on the response instead of issuing a Notice of a Non-Compliant Amendment merely to address a minor deficiency. Nevertheless to facilitate prosecution, the Applicants have amended the specification to indicate the markings showing the changes made to the title. No new matter is added.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and notice of such is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 202-942-5746 if any additional information is necessary for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gautam Prakash, Ph.D. (Reg. Agent No. 53,481)
Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. Atty. No. 46,098)
David R. Marsh (Reg. Atty. No. 41,408)

Of Counsel:

Lawrence M. Lavin, Jr. (Reg. No. 30,768)
Thomas E. Kelley (Reg. No. 29,938)
Monsanto Company

Arnold & Porter LLP
555 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Attn: IP Docketing
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202-942-5000
Fax: 202-942-5999